Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
8/18/75

Jeff Norman, Articles Editor
Playboy Magazine
919 N. Michigan Ave.,
Chicago, Ill. 60611

Dear Jeff,

I appreciate your problem in trying to be a decent guy and that you are.

I guess there really is nopractical way of repaying me. As I believe I told you and I know I told Jim, I'm not going to send you any phoney bills. I can't teach the pope religion if I don't practise it myself.

The cost of replacing that copy of Post Mortem locally is about $90. But the truth is I'm going to replace it. I'm going ahead with plans to print the whole godawful thing I'm currently expanding to include new "new evidence" of a sensational nature. I think so, anyway. I got it by another Freedom of Information suit. (I'm about to file two more. Maybe I have and my lawyer hasn't told me yet.)

My real problem and cost was not having a copy to use in an effort to sell pre-pub rights. I don't know of any way you can repay me for this. And I have no doubt that the disappearance is merely the kind of thing that happens in a bureaucracy. I had another magazine interested in June, but no copy. Now I have obtained the return of an unedited first draft that I had elsewhere for security. One of the sensational papers has a reporter in town today reading it. I'm hoping to have the book out too soon to allow any magazine to use any of it in advance of publication. When I'm about to print I'm not about to xerox.

If this paper doesn't go for it I'm not going to take time to make other efforts. So, in all honesty, I must tell you that as of now it is too late for a xerox to do me any good.

Let me put it to you this way: if you want to repay me the cost of xeroing I'll accept that. If you don't I'll make no complaint now. You wrote of hiring a secretary to post the changes. That would have taken a couple of days. If you want to add that fine. (It will mean less debt to print.) If you don't, again no complaint.

I don't for a minute think you or anyone else lost the copy on purpose. And I do believe you would not want anything like this or what it might have cost me to happen.

I appreciate that you also have an embarrassment and a problem with this. I simplify it for you as best I can: whatever you do or do not do, I will have no complaint. If I'm not going to do what your penultimate sentence offers I can't send you an honest bill for it.

Jim mentioned something about a large project on violence. I have some original papers in the hands of a reporter friend in Chicago. If you or your people are going to have any interest in them I'll leave them there. If not I'd like to arrange for their return. They are secret Minuteman stuff that can't be replaced so I want to be careful with them.

Thanks for your decency and your good intentions. My life would be easier if this were more common.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg